levied under this head in 1099 was practically the same as that levied in 1097, the number of cases disposed of was nearly treble. Another rule, *viz.*, Rule 35 of the Land Records Maintenance Rules, which has created a certain amount of misunderstanding and is possibly causing some hardship, is being re-examined with a view to its being made innocuous.

10. A large and substantial amount of work has been done by the land records staff, especially in taluks like Nedumangad, by way of regularising the past indiscriminate occupation of lands at the disposal of the Government. As, however, this work gets merged in that of general *puduval* registry, it is difficult to gauge accurately its volume and value.

11. Transfer of Registry. In paragraph 12 of my address last year, I explained the simplified procedure adopted for the disposal of pending *pokkuvaravu* cases, with a view to have all arrears under that head wiped off in advance of the preparation of correct electoral rolls in connection with the general elections to the Legislative Council during the current year. Under this procedure, the sub-division survey preliminary to the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases was dispensed with and the issue of *patta* made optional on the application of the parties concerned. As a result of this arrangement and of the special exertions of the special officer charged with the supervision of this work, 1,06,798 cases were disposed of in 1099, against 48,362 cases in 1098, and it is gratifying to note that the 34,768 cases pending at the end of that year were also disposed of before the close of Tulam, 1100, the work being thus brought up-to-date.

12. Administration of Land Revenue. In 1099, the annual *jamabandi* was conducted in all the taluks except Karunagapalli, where it had to be postponed to Chingam, 1100, owing to the floods in Karkatakam last. The object of *jamabandi* is, as I said in my address last year, to afford regular facilities to the superior land revenue officers to conduct a uniform examination of land revenue registers and accounts, thereby securing greater efficiency in land revenue administration, and to fix more accurately the land revenue demand for the year, thus minimising leakage of public revenue. The reports on the annual *jamabandi* conducted for the first time in 1098 were scrutinised by the Government and reviewed in their Order Dis. No. 1130 of 24/Revenue, dated the 29th July, 1924. These reports have brought to light several defects and irregularities in the maintenance of taluk and village accounts and registers, and it now remains for the Land Revenue Commissioner and the *jamabandi* officers to see to their prompt and effective removal. The *jamabandi* officers have also made some useful suggestions calculated to improve land revenue administration and these have been referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner for opinion. It is under contemplation to issue a set of rules defining the duties and responsibilities of *pakuthi* subordinates, and the draft rules are now under the consideration of the Government. The practice of village officers making a house to house collection of *kist*, which entailed considerable waste of their time and prevented their services being turned to better account in other directions, was stopped in 1099. Though this resulted immediately in a large increase in the number of demand notices issued, it is gratifying to note that the amount involved in the auction sale of properties for arrears of *kist* showed a substantial reduction, which is indicative of the fact that coercive steps are in most cases the direct outcome of the negligence of *pattadars* and not their inability to pay up Government dues. The scheme of detailing some of the Division Assistants exclusively for revenue work and others for judicial, referred to in paragraph 13 of my address last year, is not yet ripe for the issue of final orders, but is engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

13. Floods. The south-west monsoon rains of 1099 were extraordinarily heavy, and in Karkatakam, there was considerable devastation in the central and northern parts of the State on account of unprecedentedly heavy floods. All the rivers—especially those of the Quilon, Kottayam and Devicolam Divisions—were in high flood for many days together, dealing death to cattle and destruction to property and crops as they swept down from the mountains to the sea. The sufferings to which the people, and particularly those of the low-lying tracts of Parur, Kunnatnad and

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